News-item on corruption

†852. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report appeared in the Indian Express dated 18th December, 2002 under the heading "Transparency International says Rs. 26,278 crore goes as bribes each year—Corruption rot infects health sector most";

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the report;

(c) if so, to what extent it has been found this report true;

(d) what action Government propose to take in this regard; and

(e) whether this will have greater impact on our foreign investments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The report of Transparency International India, as available on its website, indicates that a survey was conducted through ORG-Marg Research Pvt. Ltd. covering a sample of 5157 urban and rural households. The report of the Transparency International India has been analysed in the "Financial Express" of 30.12.2002 wherein it has been stated that the study and the report exhibits "gross methodological and computational errors".

(d) and (e) Government is fully alive to the need to root out corruption and to ensure transparency in its dealing as far as possible to build confidence amongst the general public and also foreign investors. Government has introduced checks and balances for bringing accountability and ensuring efficiency in the administration. The Secretary of each Department, assisted by Chief Vigilance Officer has been made

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

responsible for ensuring probity and integrity in his Department. Government has also taken several measures to ensure transparency such as setting up of 90 facilitation centers, as on 1.12.2002 in various Ministries/Departments/Organisations to provide information and assistance to public regarding schemes and procedures of the organisation concerned. Also 71 Central Government Organisations have published Citizen's Charters reflecting the commitment of the concerned Ministries, Departments or agencies to provide services within the timeframe specified. Some Ministries and Departments have also developed their own websites for promotion of e-governance. The Freedom of Information Act, 2002 has also been enacted for ensuring greater transparency, openness and accountability in the functioning of the public authorities.

Involvement of officials in scandal and corruption cases

853. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers belonging to All India Services, service-wise, found involved in serious scandals and corruption charges during the last three years;

(b) the number of them finally indicated and action taken against them; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken to ensure that these officers maintain high standards of public morality and integrity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Under the All India Services (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1969, the State Governments are competent to initiate action against a member of the All India Services for any misconduct committed while serving in connection with the affairs of the State. In cases where the State Government proposes imposition of compulsory retirement, dismissal or removal from service or seeks sanction for prosecution under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 the proceedings are transferred to the Central Government. The powers of the Central Government in respect of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) is exercised by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, whilst for the Indian Police